UNITED NATIONS

DIVISION FOR PALESTINIAN RIGHTS

March 1990

Volume XIII, Bulletin No. 3

CONTENTS

		Page
I.	ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN AT 169TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE	1
II.	ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE	2
III.	SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN GAZA	2
IV.	SECURITY COUNCIL TAKES UP THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES	2
V.	FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF NINE ON PALESTINE OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, HELD ON 11 MARCH 1990 AT TUNIS	7
VI.	COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN	10
VII.	UNITED NATIONS SPONSORS REGIONAL AND NATIONAL JOURNALISTS' ENCOUNTERS ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE	13
VIII.	NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION	15

90-11100

I. ELECTION OF A VICE-CHAIRMAN AT 169TH MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

On 2 March 1990, the Committee unanimously elected H.E. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada (Cuba) as Vice-Chairman to succeed H.E. Oscar Oramas-Oliva (Cuba).

In the course of the meeting the Chairman of the Committee made the following statement:

"As members of the Committee are aware, H.E. Mr. Oscar Oramas-Oliva, Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations and Vice-Chairman of the Committee since 1985, left New York in January to assume the function of Deputy Foreign Minister of his country. On behalf of the Committee, I would like to request the Permanent Representative of Cuba to convey to Ambassador Oramas our deep gratitude for the invaluable contribution which he made to the work of the Committee and our most sincere congratulations and best wishes on his new and very important appointment.

"H.E. Mr. Ricardo Alarcón de Quesada is the new Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations and I am delighted to welcome him to the Committee. Ambassador Alarcón is, of course, very well known to all of us having served as Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations from 1966 to 1978, and as Vice-Chairman of the Committee after its establishment in 1976. Ambassador Alarcón also served as Vice-President of the General Assembly and President of the Governing Council of UNDP. He participated in numerous conferences of the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and was Vice-President of the Conference of Foreign Ministers in 1970 and Chairman of the Political Commission of the Ministerial Meetings held in 1974, 1975 and 1977. He also served as Cuba's Ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago from 1973 to 1978. Prior to his current appointment, Ambassador Alarcón was Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Cuba since 1978, and was named First Vice-Minister last year.

"We are grateful to Ambassador Alarcón for having expressed his readiness to serve again as Vice-Chairman of the Committee despite his many other and onerous commitments."

II. ACTION TAKEN BY THE COMMITTEE ON THE EXERCISE OF THE INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PALESTINIAN PEOPLE

In a letter dated 20 March 1990, addressed to the Secretary-General (A/45/175-S/21199), the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People drew attention to an excerpt from the Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1989 issued by the United States Department of State, which contained information on the human rights situation in the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied by Israel since 1967. In view of the importance of this information, the Committee, at its 169th meeting, held on 2 March 1990, decided to request that it be issued as an official document of the General Assembly and of the Security Council. The Chairman accordingly conveyed this request to the Secretary-General.

III. SECRETARY-GENERAL EXPRESSES CONCERN ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN GAZA

The following statement, attributable to the spokesman for the Secretary-General, was made on 1 March 1990:

> "The Secretary-General continues to be concerned about developments in Gaza, particularly in the Rafah area which, according to UNRWA, has been under curfew for most of the past eight days. The Secretary-General particularly deplores the high number of casualties, which peaked on 26 February when 17 refugees were wounded with live ammunition and 51 by plastic bullets. The Secretary-General once again appeals to the Israeli occupying authorities to abide by their obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention. In this connection, he calls on Israel to reconsider its decision to further extend the closure of the universities in the occupied territories."

IV. SECURITY COUNCIL TAKES UP THE SITUATION IN THE OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES

On 15 March 1990, the Security Council was convened in response to a request by the Soviet Union that the Council consider "unlawful Israeli moves to settle the occupied territories". The Soviet letter (document S/21139), dated 12 February 1990, stated that actions by the Israeli Government ran counter to the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War and obstructed Middle East peace efforts.

Debate continued on 27, 28 and 29 March. Consideration of the item will be taken up again at a later date.

READEX FICHE

The Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People took part in the debate as Chairman of the Committee and representative of Senegal and made the following statement (see S/PV.2911):

"In my dual capacity as representative of Senegal and Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People, I have asked to be allowed to take part in the Council's debate because we are deeply concerned at recent developments in Israel's settlements policy in the occupied Palestinian territory.

"I am pleased to note and hail the presence here and the distinguished participation this morning of Their Excellencies the Foreign Ministers of Palestine, Malaysia and Cuba, which demonstrate the significance and acuteness of this issue that is of concern to the whole international community.

"Recent statements by certain Israeli leaders show once again Israel's obstinancy in denying the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people and refusing to admit that the Fourth Geneva Convention is applicable to the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967, despite the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions.

"The settlements policy in the occupied territory carried out by Israel since 1967 has been unanimously rejected and condemned by the international community. It led the Security Council, in resolution 446 (1979), to establish a Commission consisting of three of its members to examine the situation relating to settlements in the occupied territories. When this Commission submitted its second report, the Security Council, on 1 March 1980, adopted resolution 465 (1980), in which it accepted the conclusions and recommendations contained therein.

"The Council determined that all measures taken by Israel to change the physical character, demographic composition, institutional structure or status of the Palestinian and other Arab territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, or any part thereof have no legal validity. In the Council's view, Israel's policy and practices of settling parts of its population and new immigrants in those territories constituted a flagrant violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and also constituted a serious obstruction to achieving a comprehensive, just and lasting peace in the Middle East. The Council also called upon all States not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories.

"In its third report the Commission noted a continuing deterioration in the situation in the occupied Palestinian territories and reaffirmed that the Israeli settlements policy was still being actively, deliberately and systematically pursued, using methods that were often coercive, in total disregard of fundamental human rights. This policy had led to radical and adverse changes in the economic and social structures of the daily life of the Arab population that had remained in the occupied territories and, in addition, to profound geographic and demographic changes in them, including Jerusalem, in violation of the Fourth Geneva Convention and Security Council resolutions. In view of the growing deterioration in the situation, the Commission believed that Israel's settlements policy and the unjustified suffering being imposed on a defenceless population could lead to further disorder and acts of violence, and recommended that appropriate means be found, under the auspices of the United Nations, to put an end to the situation. Unfortunately, as members know, the Security Council was not able to take up the Commission's third report, and hence its recommendations could not be implemented.

"Thus, despite the urgent appeals of the international community, Israel has pursued and accelerated its settlements policy. According to recent information, the area of the lands confiscated by Israel since 1967 had, in 1989, reached approximately 55 per cent of the total area of the occupied territories. There are 185 settlements on the West Bank and 22 in the Gaza Strip, while the number of settlers is estimated at 70,000. Moreover, about 120,000 Israelis are said to have settled in new neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem built up since the beginning of the occupation in 1967.

"This policy of creeping annexation of the occupied territory can only be part of a plan carefully prepared and implemented in accordance with very precise objectives and time tables.

"Was it not the former Israeli Defence Minister who in October 1982 declared:

'Massive settlement throughout the West Bank is the best response to the various plans people from abroad would impose on Israel?'

"Naturally, to reach this objective, Israel has taken a host of measures so as to stifle any kind of political, cultural, social and economic expression on the part of the Palestinian people. These measures have been accompanied by acts of violence, intimidation and provocation committed against Palestinians by armed Israeli settlers, not to mention expulsions and other forms of banishment.

"This situation has only grown worse since the beginning of the intifadah. In its report to the forty-third session of the General Assembly in 1988 the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People expressed its profound concern over the growing participation of armed Israeli settlers in attacks against the Palestinian population. In its report to the forty-fourth session of the Assembly the Committee expressed its grave concern of Israel's increased resort to armed force in an attempt to snuff out the intifadah. In November 1989 it was reported that a reserve company of the Israeli armed forces made up of settlers had been sent to the West Bank. In my letters addressed to the Secretary-General and to the President of the Security Council on behalf of the Committee, on many occasions I reported serious incidents arising out of acts of violence by groups of settlers that had caused many casualties among Palestinians.

"According to figures that recently appeared in the American press, the number of immigrants will rise from 50,000 in 1990 to 750,000 in the course of this decade. As a result of the new immigration the Jewish population settled in East Jerusalem since 1967 could grow by 60 per cent, and the population of the Jewish colonies in the West Bank could grow by 10 per cent in the near future. More than 2,000 Israeli families are said to have been settled in the occupied territory in 1989. It has been reported that the settlers already living there are actively encouraging new immigrants to come to the occupied territory and that the Israeli Government is co-operating in that effort by offering large cash bonuses, low-interest mortgages and practically free land.

"New immigrants are immediately settled in the West Bank, while Israeli soldiers, implementing the extremely strict residence laws, are deporting Palestinians whose families have lived there for generations. Reliable sources note the existence in the West Bank of a growing campaign to break up families, and, as a result of Israeli-imposed restrictions, tens of thousands of Palestinians who returned to the occupied territory after the 1967 war with limited-residence permits and who remained in the territory are regarded as foreigners by the occupation authorities, who expelled several hundred Palestinians in 1989, for the most part women and children, and who have deported around 50 for political reasons since the outbreak of the intifadah.

"The former mayor of Hebron, Mr. Mustafa el-Natsheh, was expressing Palestinian fears when he stated:

" 'The Israelis refuse to grant the Palestinians the right to return to the region, but at the same time they are also bringing in Jewish immigrants. We want to have our Palestinian State alongside Israel and to settle Palestinian refugees in it, but the immigration of Jews from abroad will alter the demography, the aspect of the occupied regions.'

"The Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People has noted the statements made by the Governments of the Soviet Union and the United States of America condemning Israel's present policy with regard to the settlement of the occupied territory. The Committee fully supports those statements and the statements of other Governments and of intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations on that subject, and it shares their concerns. The Committee wishes to join in the appeals that have been made to the Government of Israel to implement the Fourth Geneva Convention of 1949 and the relevant resolutions of the Security Council and to refrain from actions likely to alter the demographic composition of the occupied Palestinian territory. We urge all the parties concerned to ensure that the members of the Jewish community immigrating to Israel are not used to perpetuate the occupation of Palestinian territory, to hinder the peace process and to deny the Palestine people the exercise of their inalienable national rights.

"In that connection I am happy to be able to stress here that Senegal, faithful to its convictions and constant in its commitment to justice, supports the right of each individual freely to emigrate to the country of his choice, but that it cannot agree that the exercise of that right can be imposed by a third Power to the detriment of the host populations - in this case to the detriment of the Palestinian populations.

"Now that throughout the world dialogue and negotiations are the chosen means for finding solutions to outstanding problems, now that welcome initiatives are being taken by many Governments, demonstrating promising political courage, now that even the supporters of apartheid seem to realize the aberrance of that policy based on violence, persecution, racial discrimination and the denial of rights and freedoms, new risks are seriously threatening international peace, security and stability owing to the obstinancy of the Israeli Government in swimming against the current of history.

"We, and the Security Council, must resolutely oppose the policies and practices of Israel and its defiant and provocative stand in order that the injustice from which the Palestinians continue to suffer in their occupied homeland not be transformed into an even more fearful tragedy.

"It is up to us to support the initiatives now being taken to bring all the parties concerned to enter into constructive negotiations and to ensure the convening of the international conference on the Middle East with a view to a peaceful, comprehensive, just and lasting settlement.

"In order to achieve that pressing objective we must rise above our habitual differences.

"Soon, amidst general rejoicing, an independent Namibia will take the place it has won, through bitter struggle, in the concert of free nations. That glorious illustration of the victory of right over violence, of freedom over injustice, should be an inspiration to those who are trying to disregard the inalienable rights of peoples fighting for the triumph of their legitimate aspirations.

"I hope that the Security Council's work will enable us to go forward on a course that will also enable the courageous Palestinians, too, to regain all their inalienable national rights and to make their contribution to the international community in building a world of peace, justice and prosperity.

"Senegal, which has constantly and devotedly pursued this course, will continue to work to that end."

V. FINAL COMMUNIQUE OF THE MINISTERIAL MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE OF NINE ON PALESTINE OF THE MOVEMENT OF NON-ALIGNED COUNTRIES, HELD ON 11 MARCH 1990 AT TUNIS

"The Non-Aligned Movement's Committee of Nine on Palestine met at the ministerial level at Tunis, on 11 March 1990, to review the latest developments in the Middle East, in particular the intifadah of the Palestinian people and the settlement of Jewish emigrants from the Soviet Union in the occupied territories, as well as the forthcoming activities in the United Nations concerning the Middle East crisis and the endeavours to establish peace through the International Peace Conference on the Middle East, including efforts to establish a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue. (see A/45/166 - S/21192)

"The meeting was attended by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Algeria, Cuba, India, Senegal and Yugoslavia, the Minister of Information of the State of Palestine, the Foreign Secretary of Bangladesh and representatives of Zambia and Zimbabwe.

"The Ministers highly appreciated the important statement made by the President of the State of Palestine and Chairman of the Executive Committee of the Palestine Liberation Organization, Yasser Arafat, on the positive and constructive role of the Movement in its support for the liberation struggle of the peoples of Namibia, South Africa and Palestine. He stressed the intifadah of the Palestinian people against the occupation by Israel, gave details on the repressive practices of Israel, the suffering of the Palestinian people and the high number of victims, martyrs and injured, demolitions of property, and of abortions

resulting from the use of internationally prohibited chemical weapons. He drew the attention of participants to the dangers resulting from the daily increasing numbers of Jewish immigrants and to the decision of the Government of Israel to settle them in Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem and Nablus. He stated that, in addition to being illegal and a violation of human rights, immigration had grave demographic effects, particularly as it was aimed at realizing the "Greater Israel" plan. He warned that such action undermined peace efforts and the peace process. He proposed that the Movement should avail itself of the opportunity afforded by the convening of the Security Council to participate actively in its deliberations. He referred also to the PLO-United States dialogue and mentioned that the United States had not as yet raised the level of the dialogue. He also stated that the PLO had accepted United States Secretary of State Baker's initiative and that Israel was avoiding it, as it had rejected all other peace initiatives.

"The Ministers considered that the Co-ordinating Bureau of the Non-Aligned Countries had made a positive contribution to the consideration of the question of Palestine and the situation in the Middle East at the forty-fourth session of the United Nations General Assembly. They welcomed the activities undertaken by the Chairman of the Movement and the Committee of Nine in permanent co-ordination with the leadership of the State of Palestine to formulate the most effective action of the Movement aimed at promoting the Middle East peace process. In this context, consultations had been held with influential factors in the Middle East crisis, such as China, the United States, the Soviet Union and the European Community, which reflected a growing readiness to contribute to the efforts aimed at reaching a durable, comprehensive and just solution to the Palestinian question and the Middle East crisis, and strengthened the role of the Movement and its more immediate influence as an important factor in achieving such a solution.

"They expressed concern that the situation in the Middle East continued to be very serious owing to Israeli intransigence, that threats to peace and security in the region persisted, and that there had been an escalation of repressive measures, such as confiscation of property, forced eviction of Palestinians and the establishment of settlements by the Israeli occupation authorities.

"The declared policy of Israel to settle Jewish immigrants from the Soviet Union in the occupied Palestinian territory, including Jerusalem, was of grave consequence. Such organized, mass actions undermined the peace process, jeopardizing all efforts undertaken so far, and they were in flagrant violation of the norms of law, the Fourth Geneva Convention and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and of the fundamental human rights of the Palestinian people. Supporting the right of every individual to leave any country, including his own, the Ministers stressed that the exercise of this right should not be imposed or to the detriment of others, in this particular case of the Palestinians. The Non-Aligned Countries should call upon the international community and the United Nations Security Council to take resolute action to prevent such attempts and declare them illegal, null and void. In this context they called upon the Security Council to consider measures for the impartial protection of the Palestinian

civilian population under Israeli occupation and to call upon all States not to provide Israel with any assistance to be used specifically in connection with settlements in the occupied territories. The member countries of the Committee of Nine will express this view in the Security Council and will endeavour to have it endorsed in the Council's decisions.

"The Ministers observed that there were nevetheless certain developments creating more favourable conditions for the search for a peaceful solution to the Middle East conflict, at the core of which is the question of Palestine.

"They emphasized that the intifadah of the Palestinian people in the territories occupied by Israel had contributed significantly to these endeavours, as well as the constructive approach on the part of the PLO, the Palestinian peace initiative approved by the Palestine National Council on 15 November 1988 and proclaimed by the Chairman of the PLO at the General Assembly on 13 December 1988. The readiness of the PLO for dialogue on all relevant issues showed the PLO's sincerity and genuine response to the requirements of peace in the Middle East.

"The Ministers noted with satisfaction that these developments had received broad international support, particularly by an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly, and had had a positive impact on those factors in Israel favouring a peaceful and just solution, as well as on the Jewish communities throughout the world, thus contributing to the creation of better conditions for a successful joint action of the Movement and the international community as a whole.

"The Ministers stressed that a comprehensive, durable and just solution was possible only on the basis of full realization of the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people to self-determination, including the establishment of their own State, withdrawal of Israel from all the territories occupied since 1967, including Jerusalem, the right of all peoples in the region to live in peace and security within internationally recognized borders, and the right of Palestinian refugees to return. They reiterated that the solution was possible only with the participation, on an equal footing, of the Palestinian people, led by the PLO, its sole and legitimate representative, in all negotiations and phases of the peace process as an integral part of the international peace conference.

"They pointed out, in this context, that the Middle East peace process had entered an important and critical stage in creating conditions for the establishment of a fruitful Palestinian-Israeli dialogue, which should focus on all the substantive issues. In this respect they rejected all unjustified Israeli demands putting pre-conditions on the opening of such a dialogue and considered that such demands were aimed at circumventing the real issues and also at gaining time in an attempt to suppress the intifadah of the Palestinian people.

"The Ministers noted the statement of President Arafat, who, as well as other speakers, referred to the efforts undertaken through Egypt, the United States and other international and regional forces towards initiating a Palestinian-Israeli dialogue as soon as possible. They stressed, in this context, the importance of the dialogue between the United States and the PLO and expressed the expectation that the United States, in order to ensure progress of the peace process, would continue to exert influence on the Israeli attitude, bearing in mind the importance of its existing support for and good relations with Israel, which takes advantage of this support to persist in its policy and practices.

"They underlined the importance of, and the need for, an adequate contribution of international factors to the peace process, and in that context, welcomed the significant contribution, understanding and support of the Soviet Union, the European Community, China, Japan, the Nordic countries, as well as of Canada and Australia and an increasing number of other countries, regarding the full exercise of the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

"The Ministers invited the Security Council to proceed, as a matter of urgency, to preparations for convening the International Peace Conference on the Middle East under the auspices of the United Nations, on the basis of Security Council resolutions 242 (1967) and 338 (1973) and the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian people, primarily the right to self-determination, with the participation, on an equal footing, of all the parties directly concerned, including the PLO. They expressed great appreciation to the Secretary-General of the United Nations for his endeavours in this regard and called upon him to continue with his efforts.

"The Committee of Nine will work actively towards convening the international peace conference through its ad hoc groups, to be set up according to the decision taken at the last Committee Meeting held at the summit level at Belgrade, and will use its influence with the permanent members of the Security Council and the Secretary-General towards that end."

VI. COMMISSION ON THE STATUS OF WOMEN ADOPTS RESOLUTION ON THE SITUATION OF PALESTINIAN WOMEN

At its meeting on 12 March 1990 at Vienna, the Commission on the Status of Women adopted the following draft resolution for adoption by the Economic and Social Council on the situation of Palestinian women:

"Draft Resolution IX

"Situation of Palestinian women*

"The Economic and Social Council,

"Having considered the note by the Secretary-General transmitting the report of a mission of experts, 12/

"Recalling the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, 1/ in particular paragraph 260 thereof,

"Further recalling Economic and Social Council resolutions 1988/25 of 26 May 1988 and 1989/34 of 24 May 1989,

"Expressing concern at the persistent refusal of Israel to respect the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949, 13/

"Deeply alarmed at the critical situation of Palestinian women and children in the occupied Palestinian territories, which is profoundly influenced by the consequences of continued Israeli military occupation,

"Dismayed at the continuation of the oppressive practices of Israel, including collective punishment, curfews, demolition of houses, closure of schools and universities, confiscation of land and measures that are particularly harmful to the Palestinian women and children in the occupied Palestinian territories,

"Deeply alarmed by the practices by Israel of settling new waves of Jewish immigrants in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem, which is illegal and contravenes the relevant provisions of the Geneva Convention,

"1. Reaffirms that the basic improvement of the living conditions of the Palestinian women, their advancement, full equality and self-reliance can only be achieved by an end to the occupations and the attainment of their right to return, to self-determination and to establish an independent State in accordance with United Nations resolutions;

---

*For the discussion, see chap. IV [of the report of the Commission].

12/ E/CN.6/1990/10.

13/ United Nations, Treaty Series, vol. 75, No. 973, p. 287.

"2. Reaffirms that the Geneva Convention relative to the Protection of Civilian Persons in Time of War, of 12 August 1949 is applicable to the Palestinian people in the territories occupied by Israel since 1967, including Jerusalem;

"3. Strongly condemns the oppressive Israeli measures against the intifadah and the consequent suffering experienced by Palestinian women and their families in the occupied Palestinian territories;

"4. Requests the Commission on the Status of Women to monitor the implementation of the Nairobi Forward-looking Strategies for the Advancement of Women, in particular paragraph 260 thereof concerning assistance to Palestinian women inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories;

"5. Requests the Secretary-General to ensure that the experts continue to monitor and further investigate the situation of Palestinian women and children inside and outside the occupied Palestinian territories, and to submit their report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session;

"6. Requests governmental, non-governmental and intergovernmental organizations, including organizations of the United Nations system, to encourage and assist existing income-generating activities for Palestinian women and in the creation of new jobs;

"7. Further requests that Palestinian women be assisted in the creation of a women's centre that would provide possibilities for child care, educational discussion, cultural activities, women's solidarity and small-scale production;

"8. Requests the Secretary-General to monitor and implement the recommendations in the report of the mission of experts in order to alleviate the situation of Palestinian women in the occupied Palestinian territories;

"9. "Further requests the Secretary-General to report to the Commission on the Status of Women at its thirty-fifth session on the implementation of the recommendations and conclusions contained in the report of the mission of experts 12/ taking into consideration all available information, including reports of the United Nations, its specialized agencies and its expert missions, reports of meetings, as appropriate, and information from Governments and non-governmental organizations."

VII. UNITED NATIONS SPONSORS REGIONAL AND NATIONAL JOURNALISTS' ENCOUNTERS ON THE QUESTION OF PALESTINE

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/41 C of 6 December 1989, an Asian and Pacific regional journalists' encounter on the question of Palestine was held at Singapore from 26 to 28 March 1990. A series of national encounters was also held at Oslo on 9 March; at London on 13 March; at Belgrade on 16 March; at Tokyo on 19 March; at Manila on 21 March; at Bangkok on 23 March; and at New Delhi on 30 March.

The objective of the encounters was to promote a better understanding of the question of Palestine among leaders of the media by bringing them together with experts on the subject for brief, in-depth, informal and candid discussion.

Asia and Pacific encounter

The following panelists were invited to address the participants: the Honourable Russell Marshall, former Foreign Minister of New Zealand; Ambassador Razali Ismail, Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations; Mr. Shafiq Al-Hout, Member, Palestine National Council, Member, PLO Central Council; and, Mr. David Shaham, Executive Director, International Centre for Peace in the Middle East, journalist and columnist for Yediot Aharanot.

A total of 23 journalists representing the press, radio and television media of 12 nations participated in the encounter. The following topics were addressed: historical review of the origins of the Palestinian question; the United Nations and the question of Palestine; the inalienable rights of the Palestinian people; Israel and the question of Palestine; the prospects for a peaceful settlement of the Palestinian problem. In addition to the foreign journalists, the encounter was also attended by a number of local journalists and foreign diplomats based in Singapore. During the course of the encounter, panelists had the opportunity to give radio and television interviews to the participants.

Local encounters

In Europe and Asia, the panel comprised Mr. Shafiq Al-Hout and Mr. David Shaham with Mr. Mahmoud El-Said of the Department of Public Information as moderator.

The encounters were attended by 40 to 60 journalists, representatives of NGOs, senior governmental officials and foreign diplomats.

Local television and radio stations in each city covered the events and interviewed both panelists.

Debates at all events, whether regional or national were lively, frank and objective. According to replies to a questionnaire, participants were generally of the view that the encounters had gone far in promoting understanding of the background and current status of the question of Palestine. While participants appreciated the presence of Mr. Shaham on the panel, they expressed the view that it would have been good to hear the opinion of an official Israeli representative. It was explained that although the Department of Public Information had repeatedly invited Israeli officials to participate in United Nations public information activities on the question of Palestine, no such invitations had ever been accepted.

VIII. NON-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS: ACTIVITIES AND INFORMATION

During the month of March, the following information came to the attention of the Division for Palestinian Rights:

1. The Middle East Justice Network, newsletter available from: P.O. Box 558, Cambridge, MA.

2. AJME News, February/March issue, available from: Americans for Justice in the Middle East, P.O. Box 113 - 5581, Beirut, Lebanon.

3. Palestine Perspectives, March/April issue, available from: 9522 A Lee Highway, Fairfax, VA 22031.

4. Jerusalem, January issue, available from: Palestine Committee for NGOs, B.P. 554, Tunis Cedex 1080, Tunis, Tunisia.

5. Middle East International, bi-weekly review of political and economic events in the Middle East, available from: P.O. Box 53365, Temple Heights Station, Washington, D.C. 20009.

6. Israel and Palestine Political Report, January issue, available from: Magelan/L & P, Rue Cardinal Mercier, 75009, Paris, France.

7. TAGI News, publication of Talal Abu-Ghazaleh International, available from: P.O. Box 4295, Abu-Dhabi, United Arab Emirates.

8. Samedoon, Friends of Palestinian Prisoners, available from: P.O. Box 15288, Washington, D.C. 20003.

9. Middle East International, bi-weekly journal, available from: 31, Collingham Road, London SW5, or 1700, 17th Street N.W. #306, Washington, D.C. 20009.

10. Friendship, Journal of the All India Indo-Arab Friendship Association, available from: MIG 38-B, Pocket-C, Ashok Vihar-III, Delhi-110052, India.

11. Amanecer, Buletin Informativo de Organizaciones No Gubernamentales Pro-Palestina, available from: Apartado de Correos 2102, 37080 Salamanca, Spain.

12. Palestine News Agency, Inc., monthly publication available from: National Press Building, Suite 1071, 529 14th St., N.W. Washington, D.C. 20045.

13. Tricontinental, journal available from: P.O. Box 4224, Havana, Cuba.

- - - - -